

Appl. No. 09/886,030
Examiner: Hewitt, James M, Art Unit 3679
In response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003

Date: September 30, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 10111391

REMARKS

Present Status of Application

As of the final office action mailed on July 30, 2003, claims 1-16, 19, 20, 22-34 were pending. Claims 1-16 and 22-28 were withdrawn from consideration. In the office action claims 19 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horvath et al (US 4,707,027). Claims 20 and 32-34 were allowed. Claims 29 and 31 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the office action, claims 1-16 and 22-28 have been cancelled. Claims 19 and 30 have been amended to recite that the first and second valves are manually controlled valves. Support for this amendment can be found on page 12, lines 3-5 of the specification and Figs. 7B-7E, where it states in part that "...the switch 731 is connected to a valve 7311...when the switch 731 is rotated to the "INFLATE" position, the valve 7311 is opened...". That is, in this application, the valve 7311 is manually controlled and opened by the first switch.

In addition, new claims 35-46 have been added. Support for new claims 35-46 can be found on page 11, line 19 to page 12, line 18 and in Figs. 7A-7F.

It is Applicant's belief that the aforementioned amendments put the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Drawings

Corrected drawings are provided incorporating the amendments shown in the proposed drawings filed on April 30, 2003.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication in the Office Action that claims 20 and 32-34 are allowable.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 19 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horvath et al. Horvath et al discloses a pneumatically cushioned vehicle seat including an air pump 14, a solenoid valve 16, and a switch 22. The switch 22 activates the solenoid valve 16 and the air pump 14. It is noted that in Horvath et al, the solenoid valve 16 is electrically controlled by the switch 22.

Claim 19 has been amended to recites an inflatable product including a first chamber, a first manually-controlled valve, an air pump, a first switch, and a switch circuit. The air pump inflates the first chamber through the first manually-controlled valve. The first switch activates the air pump and opens the first manually-controlled valve. The air pump is activated by the first switch through the switch circuit. The switch circuit has a second switch turned on by the first switch when the first switch is turned on, and a relay activated to supply the air pump with power when the second switch is turned on.

Horvath et al does not teach or suggest that the first switch activates the air pump and opens the first manually-controlled valve. For at least this reason, it is Applicant's belief that claim 19 is allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Insofar as claims 29-31 depend from claim 19, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also allowable.

New Claims 35-46

New claim 35 recites an inflatable product, including: a first chamber; a first pack body; a first valve disposed in the first pack body; an air pump for inflating the first chamber through the first valve; a first switch, disposed on the first pack body, for activating the air pump and opening the first valve; and a switch circuit through which the air pump is activated by the first switch, wherein the switch circuit has a second switch turned on by the first switch when the first switch is turned on. Thus, in claim 35, both the first valve and the first switch are disposed in/on the first pack body. In contrast, in Horvath et al, the solenoid valve 16 and the switch 22 are separately disposed. It is therefore Applicant's belief that claim 35 is allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Insofar as claims 36-46 depend from claim 35, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,



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